AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below. In accordance with the PTO's revised amendment format, a detailed listing of all claims has been provided. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Changes to the claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

By way of overview claims 1-6 and 8-10 and 12-48 are currently pending claims (because claims 7 and 11 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 39-48 have been added). The status of the pending claims is indicated below:

a) Claims 1, 8, 15-17, 20 and 24 are currently amended;

b) Claims 2-6, 9, 10, 12-14, 18, 19, 21-23 and 25-37 are original; and

c) Claims 38-48 are newly presented herein.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

an information tracking component to store, for each of a plurality of items, information describing the item;

a supply component configured to receive data describing one or more items, convert the received data into a format used by the information tracking component, and store the converted data as information in the information tracking component;

a publishing component to <u>automatically</u> select, for each of a plurality of subscribers, a different set of information from the information tracking component, and to communicate the selected set of information to <u>local storage maintained by</u> the subscriber, <u>wherein the communication involves transferring information to subscribers in advance of receiving requests from the subscribers pertaining to the information;</u> and

a subscriber request component to receive requests from the plurality of subscribers and modify the information stored in the information tracking component in accordance with the requests,

wherein the publishing component is further configured to identify one or more of the plurality of subscribers affected by the modification to the information stored in the information tracking component, and to communicate, to the one or more of the plurality of subscribers affected by the modification, the information as modified.

2. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the information tracking component is to store information regarding a plurality of assets.

3. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the information tracking component is to store information regarding a plurality of services.

4. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the information tracking component includes an information tracking database and a publishing database, wherein the information tracking database stores data describing the plurality of items, and wherein the publishing database stores data identifying which of the plurality of subscribers each of the plurality of items has been published to.

5. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing component is further to perform the selection for each subscriber based at least in part on criteria supplied by the subscriber.

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6. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing component is further to perform the selection for each subscriber based at least in part on the information in the information tracking component describing each of the plurality of items.

7. (Canceled) ~~A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing component is further to identify one or more of the plurality of subscribers affected by the modification to the information stored in the information tracking component, and to communicate, to the one or more of the plurality of subscribers affected by the modification, the information as modified.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim [[7]] 1, wherein the one or more of the plurality of subscribers affected by the modification to the information stored in the information tracking component comprise the ones of the plurality of subscribers to which the information was previously communicated.

9. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each item is an asset available for purchase, wherein the subscriber request component receives a request to reserve a particular asset, and wherein the publishing component is further to communicate to selected ones of the plurality of subscribers a notification that the asset is reserved and not available for sale.

10. (Original) A system as recited in claim 9, wherein the selected ones of the plurality of subscribers comprise only subscribers that received, as part of the set of information, information describing the particular asset.

11. (Cancelled) ~~A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing component~~
~~is further configured to communicate the selected set of information to the subscriber for~~
~~local storage at the subscriber.~~

12. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing component
is further configured to communicate to one of the subscribers to delete information
previously communicated to the one subscriber.

13. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing component
is further configured to automatically communicate, to one of the subscribers,
information in addition to the set of information previously communicated to the one
subscriber.

14. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the publishing component
is further configured to communicate, to the plurality of subscribers, modifications to the
set of information communicated to each subscriber.

15. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim [[1]] 14, wherein the
modifications include additional information describing additional items.

16. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim [[1]] 14, wherein the
modifications include deletions of information from the set of information.

17. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim [[1]] 14, wherein the modifications include updates to the information in the set of information.

18. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each item has an associated time indicating when it is available, and wherein the publishing component is further configured to communicate, as part of the set of information, only information corresponding to items for which the associated times indicate are currently available.

19. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber request component is further configured to modify the information stored in the information tracking component in response to a request from a particular subscriber only if an appropriate fee is paid by the particular subscriber.

20. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

maintaining a database of information regarding a plurality of items;

publishing selected item information from the database to local storage maintained by each of a plurality of different subscribers in advance of receiving requests from the subscribers, wherein the item information selected for publishing to a particular subscriber is dependent on criteria submitted by the particular subscriber and the information describing each item;

receiving, from one of the plurality of subscribers, a request to update the information regarding one of the plurality of items corresponding to item information published to the subscriber; and

communicating, to each other subscriber that the item information was published to, a notification of the update to the item information.

21. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the update comprises a change to indicate the item has been sold.

22. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the update comprises a change to indicate the item has been reserved by one of the plurality of subscribers.

23. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising maintaining a publishing database indicating which of the plurality of subscribers the item information has been published to.

24. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a processor to perform acts including:

storing, for each of a plurality of items, information describing the item in an information tracking database;

communicating item information from the information tracking database to local storage maintained by each subscriber, in advance of a request by the subscriber pertaining to the item information;

storing, in a publishing database, data identifying which item information has been communicated to each subscriber of a plurality of subscribers;

receiving a request from one of the plurality of subscribers regarding one of the plurality of items;

updating information in the publishing database in accordance with the request;

accessing the publishing database to identify which of the plurality of subscribers

the item information has previously been communicated to; and

initiating another communication to each of the identified subscribers notifying

the identified subscribers of the update to the information.

25. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 24,

wherein the information in the publishing database includes a status of the item, and

wherein the request indicates a change to the status of the item.

26. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 24,

wherein each item is an asset available for sale via one or more of the plurality of

subscribers.

27. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 24,

wherein each item is an asset available for sale, wherein the request comprises a request

to reserve a particular asset, and wherein each of the other communications comprises a

notification to one of the identified subscribers that the asset is not available for sale

except to the subscriber from which the reserve request is received.

28. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 24,

wherein the computer-executable instructions further direct the processor to perform acts

including receiving a fee in exchange for updating the information describing the item in

the database in accordance with the request.

29. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 24, wherein the computer-executable instructions further direct the processor to perform acts including:

receiving additional information describing a plurality of additional items;

storing, in the information tracking database, the additional information;

identifying one or more of the plurality of subscribers to communicate selected parts of the additional information to; and

communicating the selected parts of the additional information to the identified one or more subscribers.

30. (Original) A method comprising:

maintaining an asset tracking database that includes information describing a plurality of different assets available for sale;

communicating different groups of the information to different ones of a plurality of subscribers to allow the individual subscribers to offer the items about which it receives information for sale;

receiving an indication from one of the subscribers to purchase the item; and

communicating a change in status of the asset to each of the plurality of subscribers that had previously received the asset information.

31. (Original) A method as recited in claim 30, wherein the change in status of the asset comprises setting the status to a sold status.

32. (Original) A method as recited in claim 30, wherein the change in status of the asset comprises setting the status to a sale pending status.

33. (Original) One or more computer-readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a processor to perform acts including:

communicating information to a plurality of subscribers, the information describing an item available for sale;

receiving a request, from one of the plurality of subscribers, to reserve the item;

changing a status of the item to a reserved status; and

communicating the change in the status of the item to each of the plurality of subscribers to indicate the item is not currently available for sale.

34. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the computer-executable instructions further direct the processor to perform acts including:

subsequently receiving a request to cancel the reserved status; and

communicating another change in the status of the item to each of the plurality of subscribers to indicate the item is again available for sale.

35. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the computer-executable instructions further direct the processor to perform acts including:

subsequently receiving a request to cancel the reserved status; and

communicating another change in the status of the item to each of the plurality of subscribers to indicate the item has been sold.

36. (Original) A method comprising:

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maintaining information describing an item, wherein the information includes a plurality of fields each describing an aspect of the item;

allowing a subscriber to identify which information is to be communicated to the subscriber for local storage at the subscriber, wherein the identification is based on a set of criteria that identifies particular criteria for one or more of the plurality of fields of the information;

communicating, to the subscriber, the identified information;

subsequently receiving a request from another subscriber to alter a status of the identified information; and

communicating, to the subscriber, the updated status of the identified information.

37. (Original) A method as recited in claim 36, wherein the updated status comprises a sold or sale pending status.

38. (New) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the supply component is configured to receive the data describing the one or more items in a plurality of different formats, and to convert the data into the format used by the information tracking component.

39. (New) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber request component is configured to receive requests from the plurality of subscribers in a plurality of different formats, and to convert the requests into a defined format.

40. (New) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the supply component is configured to receive information having a data portion and an operation portion, wherein

the data portion includes data received from a source, and the operation portion identifies an operation to be performed by the supply component.

41. (New) A system as recited in claim 40, wherein the operation includes at least one of: an insert operation which provides an instruction to add an item to the information tracking component; an update operation which provides an instruction to update an item in the information tracking component; or a delete operation which provides an instruction to delete an item in the information tracking component.

42. (New) A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the publishing database stores data identifying which of the plurality of subscribers each of the plurality of items has been published to, including subscribers that have not submitted requests pertaining to the items.

43. (New) A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the publishing database includes a status field used to identify the current respective status of the plurality of items.

44. (New) A system as recited in claim 43, wherein the status field identifies the status of the plurality of items with respect to each of the subscribers that subscribe to the items.

45. (New) A system as recited in claim 43, wherein the status can assume at least one of the states of:

an active status indicating that an item is available for purchase;

an inactive status indicating that the item is no longer available for purchase;

a deferred status indicating that the item will become available in the future;

a sale pending status indicating that there is a sale pending for the item;

a sold status indicating that the item has been sold; or

a reserved status indicating that the item has been reserved for potential sale.

46. (New) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein each item is identified by the information tracking component using a plurality of fields, and wherein the criteria supplied by the subscriber is defined with reference to the fields.

47. (New) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein the criteria supplied by the subscriber is supplied by the subscriber in advance of the subscriber making requests pertaining to the information.

48. (New) A method comprising:

maintaining an asset tracking database that includes information describing a plurality of different assets available for sale having defined aspects;

receiving respective criteria submitted by different subscribers defining aspects of assets that the subscribers are interested in;

publishing different information to different respective subscribers' local storages, providing that the published information satisfies the respective subscribers' submitted criteria, thus allowing the individual subscribers, through the use of their respective local storages, to offer the assets associated with the published information for sale;

receiving an indication from one of the subscribers to take an action with respect to an identified asset; and

publishing change-in-status information pertaining to the identified asset to subscribers' local storages for those subscribers affected by the change-in-status information, as determined by a publication database,

wherein the published change-in-status information allows the subscribers' local storages, from which the subscribers conduct sales of the assets, to remain synchronized with up-to-date information regarding the assets.